

Ans  
May 28th



GRAND CENTRAL  
ANNEX



Mrs. M. Parlow  
30 Prince Arthur Avenue  
Toronto  
Canada







May 12 - 1942

My beloved Parlo:-

159 EAST 49TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

I was so happy to receive dear Dolly's letter and to know she was better and had a helper to make things easier for you both - intended to answer at once - but there seem to have been a million things to do always - so this is just a line to send the enclosed as proof positive of many busy hours - Everything went off well - Everyone was most kind and enthusiastic and my treasures are beautifully arranged - I am longing to know how you both are and I promise to write soon again - You doubtless read in paper of the illness and death of my two loved friends - Carolyn Wells - and Mary Campbell - Each went to a hospital the same day - Feb 9 - Carolyn died in seven weeks and Mary in eight - and I have felt just crushed - It doesn't seem possible they are gone - Catherine was with me until March 16 - went home for Bill's holiday and to



anxious to change gardeners - They too  
has a shop job in Hartford and they  
are near their one daughter - Catherine  
has a very good young man with wife  
and baby - Bill Fay went into service  
May 6<sup>th</sup> - so she has been quite  
alone - I don't know at all where he  
is to go - Catherine comes down for  
the night Friday, and will take  
Lucia's Parker back with her -  
the baby brother or sister may  
arrive soon! My family all well  
and very busy - all up in the Berkshire  
have had grip but are well again -  
The servant question is getting more  
difficult by the minute - Sister Louie  
hasn't yet been able to get anyone  
for her big house - except a part time  
somer maid - and no laundress -  
Catherine has lost laundress and has  
young girl maid part time - Florence's  
girl maid married - they have no one  
yet - How my little Celeste grows  
each day!

I must love to go - both and all good  
night - Devotedly - Hannah



FORMAL OPENING

OF A

WALT WHITMAN EXHIBITION

HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY

AT THE

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

THIRTY-FOURTH STREET BELOW SPRUCE

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1942

EIGHT P. M.



*Programme*

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DR. JOHN A. STEVENSON, *President of the Friends of the University of Pennsylvania Library*, Presiding.

DIRGE FOR TWO VETERANS

Words by WALT WHITMAN. Music by HARL McDONALD. *Women's Glee Club, University of Pennsylvania; soloist, Rosina DiLullo.*

MY WHITMAN COLLECTION

MRS. FRANK JULIAN SPRAGUE.

WHITMAN'S MESSAGE TO OUR TIME

SCULLEY BRADLEY.

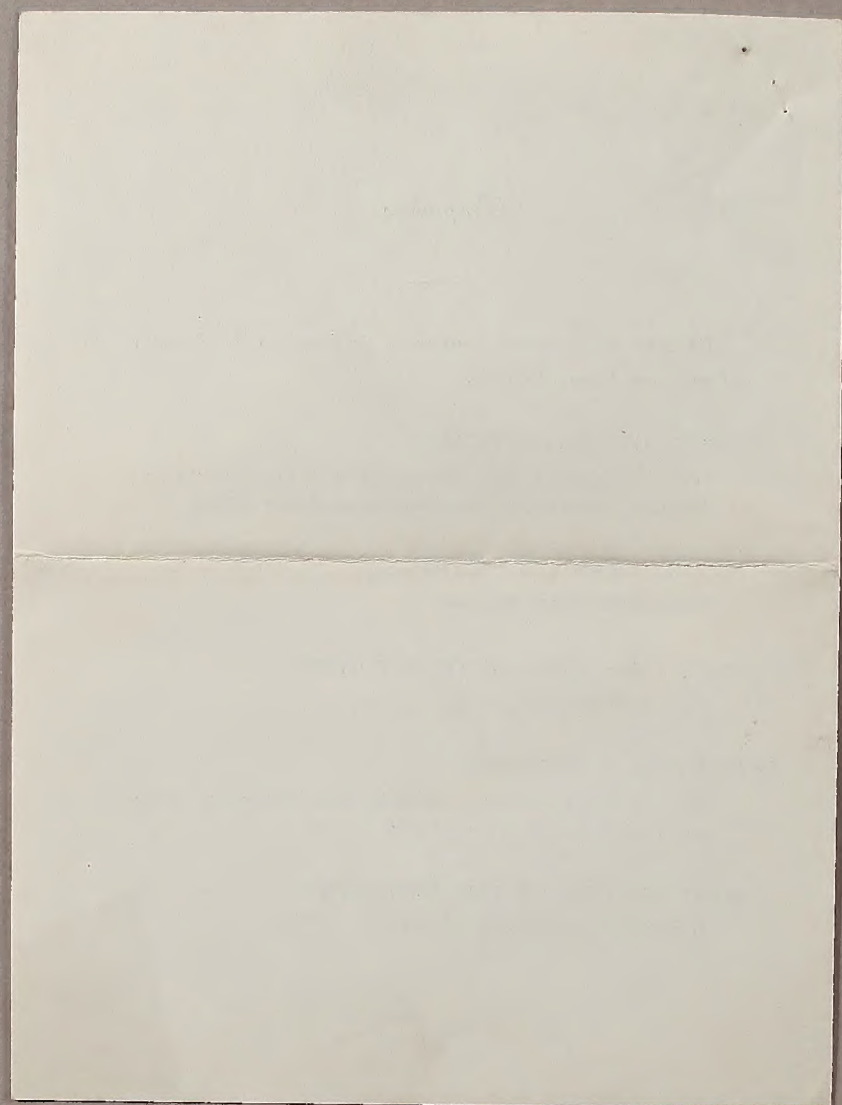
PIONEERS O PIONEERS

Words by WALT WHITMAN. Music by HARL McDONALD. *A Cappella Choir, University of Pennsylvania.*

FIRST VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION

In the Upper Galleries of the Museum.







The Walt Whitman Collection

of Mrs. Frank Julian Sprague \*

Exhibited in the University Museum

33rd and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia

May 9 to June 27, 1942

*Under the Auspices of the*

University of Pennsylvania Library

to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary  
of Whitman's Death

\* For fuller information see the catalogue of the collection which  
was published by the Library of Congress in 1939, copies of which are  
available at the Exhibition.



Walt Whitman died fifty years ago, on March 26, 1892, in his modest frame house at 330 (then 328) Mickle Street, Camden, New Jersey. Today, the once-neglected poet is recognized by his countrymen as one of the greatest of our literary men, and the house in which he died is a shrine. In the present national crisis the message of the Poet of Democracy seems incandescent with renewed vitality; his unquenchable faith in the beauty and indestructibility of the American vision of Life, which sustained his songs through the trials of the Civil War, strengthens our own hopes in the dark hours of our century.

The Library of the University of Pennsylvania welcomes this opportunity to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the poet's death by exhibiting the Whitman Collection of Mrs. Frank Julian Sprague of New York City. This is one of the truly notable collections in the country, rich in every department of Whitman materials, but especially in its first editions of *Leaves of Grass*. It is fitting that this should be so. *Leaves of Grass* is the man, Whitman. As he wrote it,

Camerado, this is no book,  
Who touches this touches a man.

Yet for the scholar or collector it is difficult to know what is meant by a reference to *Leaves of Grass*; the book was so many different things at various times, growing, from 1855 to 1892, from ninety-five pages to four hundred and twenty-two pages, constantly revised through fourteen principal editions, some of which, like that of 1856, are almost impossible to procure. Here, in Mrs. Sprague's collection, we have them all, and can study the evolution of the art and the meaning of Whitman's work. And we have, besides, many "special" editions of the *Leaves*, such as those of which the poet printed but a few for private circulation, from older plates, but often with new intercalations. Besides, we find all of the English editions, and every edition of Whitman's prose, and every important "collected edition" or "selected edition" of his verse and prose, down to the present year. Indeed, there exist nowhere else in one place more complete resources for textual scholarship on the subject of Walt Whitman than in this collection of Mrs. Sprague.

Among the many "association" items the Gilchrist group is perhaps most striking. This is a collection of autographed

Whitman editions, manuscripts and letters reminiscent of the poet's association with his "dearest woman friend", Mrs. Anne Gilchrist. It includes two fine oil paintings of the poet by Herbert Gilchrist. Other "association" items include a large collection of books about Whitman's friends and his relations with them—Lincoln, Burroughs, W. M. Rossetti, Ingersoll, O'Connor and many others are included in this large category. There are nearly a score of unpublished photographs and sketches of Whitman and a number of fine engravings and woodcuts. The letters to and from Whitman include a number which have never been published. Among the important manuscripts are documents recording arrangements with publishers and records of sales.

Other important items in Mrs. Sprague's collection, significant as they are, must be briefly summarized. There are eighty-five books specifically about Whitman, studies and biographies, including every important volume in all languages. There is every volume of prose and poetry published or authorized by Whitman, independently of *Leaves of Grass* and *Specimen Days*, and there are some spurious, pirated or unauthorized volumes as well. There are many periodicals containing fugitive contributions of Walt Whitman. Illustrative of the worldwide influence and currency of Whitman's work is the large number of volumes of translations—French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, German, Hungarian, Serbian, Greek, Russian and Japanese.

Mrs. Sprague, unlike many collectors, has been guided, in making this collection over a period of twenty-five years, by an abiding love of the poet's works, by a discriminating sense of what would shed light upon his personality and his meaning, and by the cultural value of her collection.

Mrs. Sprague has kindly contributed the following summary notes concerning a number of the more significant and rare items in her collection:

(1) Of particular importance is the Whitman-Gilchrist collection, which includes all Whitman letters (most of them unpublished) to Mrs. Gilchrist, photographs, books; also letters, postal cards, books, etc., sent to the Gilchrist family. Whitman's rough first draft of the poem "Going Somewhere" in memory of Anne Gilchrist; Herbert Gilchrist's MS notebook recording conversations of his mother and Whitman in Philadelphia, 1876-1877; letters about Whitman from John Burroughs, Prof. Dowden, John Addington Symonds to Mrs.



Gilchrist and her son, Herbert; copy of the *Radical*, Boston, May 1870, containing a remarkable article on Whitman by Anne Gilchrist.

(2) Early Whitman writings are shown in magazines 1841-1867. Those before the publication of *Leaves of Grass* in 1855 are credited to Walter Whitman. *Voices from the Press*, New York, 1850 contains Whitman's "Tomb Blossoms", also the first biographical article ever written about the poet.

(3) One copy of the rare first issue of *Leaves of Grass* and two copies of the second issue (with notices added), all 1855. The important editions of Whitman's writings follow, including the "death-bed" issue of *Leaves of Grass*, Philadelphia, David McKay, 1891-1892. Only one other copy of this issue is known to have been autographed by Whitman.

(4) Six items of great importance concern the suppression of the James B. Osgood, 1881-1882, Boston, edition of *Leaves of Grass*, including much William D. O'Connor autograph material condemning the suppression. In 1882 this edition was published as the first Philadelphia edition by Rees Welsh & Co. (also shown).

(5) *The Good Gray Poet, A Vindication*, by Wm. Douglas O'Connor, is here in its rare original pamphlet form, New York 1866. "Walt Whitman and his Drum Taps" in *The Galaxy*, Dec. 1, 1866, one of the earliest appreciations of Whitman by John Burroughs, his personal copy.

(6) *Notes on Walt Whitman as Poet and Person*, John Burroughs' first book and the first book about Whitman, New York 1867, first and second issues. The earlier one, Dante Gabriel Rossetti's copy, has his book plate. Also three of the second, enlarged edition, 1871 (blue, green and brown cloth). The latter was John Burroughs' own copy with his autograph on title page; marginal notes throughout are by Burroughs as dictated to Dr. Clara Barrus.

(7) *The Fight of a Book for the World* by Wm. Sloane Kennedy, regular first edition, 1926; also, the first of seven copies specially bound, with a two-page autograph letter from Whitman to Kennedy about Emerson—both are inscribed to Mrs. Sprague.

(8) There are many important autograph letters from biographers and close friends of Whitman, including a letter from Mr. Thomas B. Harned to Mrs. Sprague, estimating the value of the contributions of various biographers of Whitman.

(9) The Saunders items are interesting because of his great contribution to the Whitman record.

(10) The Walt Whitman-McKay-Rees Welsh autograph correspondence and publishing-house accounts are of first importance, and particular attention should be called to the foreign editions.

(11) Copy of the U. S. Congress Whitman Pension bill, reported February 1, 1887, then withdrawn.